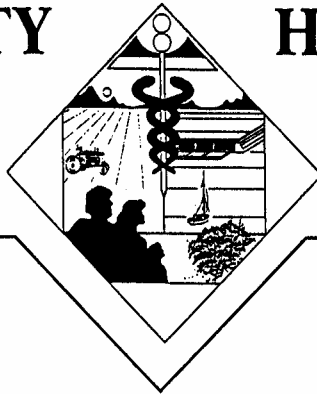


GRANT COUNTY

County Courthouse
P.O. Box 37
Ephrata, WA 98823
(509) 754-6060



HEALTH DISTRICT

1038 W. Ivy Avenue
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 766-7960

BOARD OF HEALTH November 14, 2007 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Wanke with the following members, staff and guests present.

MEMBERS

Troy Ritter – Electric City
James Liebrecht – Moses Lake
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek

Tony Gonzalez – Quincy
Mark Wanke – Ephrata

STAFF

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Peggy Grigg – Administrator/PH Director
Pattie Anderson – Admin Services Manager

Jerry Campbell – EH Director
Jim Whitaker - Attorney

ABSENT

Clay Richmond - George
Richard Stevens – Commissioner

Cindy Carter – Commissioner
LeRoy Allison – Commissioner

GUESTS

Randy Bracht – Grant Co. Journal

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 10, 2007 were approved as written (M/S Liebrecht/Kelby – unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

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PERSONAL HEALTH REPORT – Peggy Grigg

2008 Budget – Mrs. Grigg presented the 2008 Budget. The Board had received the budget along with an explanation regarding the revenues and expenditures. We have had several reductions in grants totaling approximately \$88,000. With additional increases in fees and permits and based on 2007 revenues, the overall projection of revenue reductions total \$75,000.

Regarding expenditures, an estimated COLA has been calculated with final numbers coming in December. Exempt salaries for PH Director, EH Director and Accounting Clerk have salary increases pursuant to the 2005 salary survey that was done three years ago. For 2008 it amounts to \$400 per month total.

The proposed budget does not include one full time RN staff position that was vacated in October 2007 which creates an overall reduction in salary costs.

Benefits have been adjusted for known increases in L & I, Retirement and an assumed increase of the maximum increase allowed to GCHD for employee insurance.

The additional new state funds in the amount of \$162,000 are included in the ending fund balance until such time as it is determined how those funds are to be spent. This results in an ending fund balance of \$267,508, absent the expenses to be related to the new funds.

A motion was made to set a public hearing for next month to adopt the 2008 budget (M/S Liebrecht/Gonzalez – unanimous).

New Funding-Organizational Capacity – Mrs. Grigg briefly went over the new funding requirements, deliverables, etc. The District feels the best way to reach these goals and address current Public Health is to hire a Community Public Health Services Manager. This position would supervise the Program Facilitator, Public Health Nurses and Outreach Workers. This would also provide more consistent on-site supervision in the Moses Lake office and would enhance the continuity of necessary administrative function with special focus on the new objectives related to the new funds.

A new organizational chart was presented to the Board. Mrs. Grigg explained the hierarchy of the chart and also pointed out some of the job titles that have been changed. A copy of the chart is included in the minute's book.

Discussion was held regarding other staffing options that could perhaps work for the Health District. Mr. Liebrecht was concerned with the addition of another manager. Dr. Brzezny and Mrs. Grigg explained some of the duties the new manager would provide that are vital to the Health District which will also enable us to meet the standards that are being placed on the District with the new money that is being provided. If we don't show the improvements that are being made with this additional money, the money will be withheld in the future. This money should be available for the

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next four years. Most other local health jurisdictions have similar positions. This position could also be seeking new grants for additional funding.

Mrs. Grigg stated that she has been fortunate to have a Program Facilitator in place in the Moses Lake office that has excellent qualities which complement the work that Mrs. Grigg does as well as Dr. Brzezny. Mrs. Grigg stated that she has an excellent staff, and that the need for a manager on site in Moses Lake is not a statement about their lack of ability to do their jobs.

A motion was made to accept the proposed organizational chart of the Health District (M/S Liebrecht/Gonzalez – unanimous).

MOU for Emergency Management – Mrs. Grigg presented the MOU between the Grant Co. Health District and the Grant Co. Department of Emergency Management. The purpose of the MOU is to support the sharing and/or loaning of emergency communications equipment, including the GCHD satellite phones, during emergency operations.

A motion was made to adopt the MOU between the GCHD and GCEM (M/S Ritter/Liebrecht – unanimous).

Mrs. Grigg asked the permission of the Board to approve her signing any future MOU's without formal approval of the Board if the Health Officer and legal counsel have given their approval. A motion was made to approve this request (M/S Ritter/Liebrecht – unanimous).

Quarter Personal Health Report – 3rd Quarter – The report had been sent to the Board last week. Mrs. Grigg asked that the Board contact her with any questions they might have regarding the report. A copy is included in the minute's book.

Audit Update – Staff has met with the State Auditor and has re-negotiated the billings. The total amount due now is \$3,985.16. A motion was made to pay the remainder of the bill (M/S Gonzalez/Ritter – unanimous).

Write-Offs – Mrs. Anderson informed the Board that the current write-off amount is \$1,734.92. Dr. Brzezny inquired as to what the trend has been regarding the amount. This is only the second time we have done this, so there is no accurate comparison at this time since the first time was a substantial amount, dating back for a longer time period.

Resolution 2007-2 – The state auditor's have requested that the Health District not be allowed to hold credit cards under the county's "umbrella". We are in the process of obtaining our own cards within our own entity and this Resolution is one of the requirements. A motion was made to adopt Resolution 2007-2 (M/S Ritter/Kelby – unanimous). Mr. Whitaker explained an alternate system that Othello has in place.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jerry Campbell

Food Inspections – The food inspection reports for October had been distributed to the board. If you average out the inspections per month it would be 70. A total of 98 were done in October.

Environmental Health Report – 3rd Quarter – Mr. Campbell briefly went over the report. He stated that no water surveys were done, but assured the Board that they would be done by the end of the year because we receive revenue for this.

Mr. Ritter brought up a situation that had happened in a Grand Coulee food establishment. He had received a call from a business that had been cited for not having a 4-compartment sink. When they had asked the inspector what they could do to alleviate the problem, he was told “that is not my problem”. The other issue was why it had been OK for several years to only have a 3-compartment sink and now all of a sudden they are told they need a 4-compartment.

Mr. Campbell gave an example of what possibly could have happened to invoke the change in the requirement. Mr. Ritter’s main concern is how the owner was treated during the inspection and that a different approach should be used. We are to be there to be helpful and provide resources.

Mr. Gonzalez asked how long the business is given to implement the changes. Mr. Campbell stated they usually ask the owner how long they think they need to make the necessary changes and then come up with a timeline.

Dr. Brzezny also said there might be something in the new guidelines that might have been the reason for the change also. He prefers not to speculate as to the reason for the change and stated that the issue would be discussed with staff.

Food Ordinance Revision – Mr. Campbell presented the proposed changes in the food ordinance. There are two additional items that have to do with employees who are working without valid food worker cards. The violation points that will be invoked could possibly initiate a re-inspection.

Discussion was again held regarding wearing I.D. badges (including food worker cards) for food workers.

A motion was made to hold a public hearing next month for adoption of Ordinance 2007-4, Food Ordinance revision (M/S Liebrecht/Ritter – unanimous).

Mr. Ritter asked Mr. Campbell how things were going with the water situation in Electric City. Mr. Campbell said he has a list of things he has to do and the District is waiting to hear back from him.

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HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

MRSA – Dr. Brzezny stated how our community is subject to an outbreak. Due to the increased media coverage of cases of MRSA, the public is much more aware of the disease. The state is very much aware of the fact that there has not been much communication to the public from Public Health about MRSA. Though MRSA has been around and we have known about it, the media has made the public much more aware with the disease being in schools, churches, etc. Some deaths have even occurred and these have been widely reported.

The state is now convening an expert group of infectious disease communicators and then centrally try to go to the schools, public, etc. to inform them about MRSA. Dr. Brzezny reiterated that good hand washing techniques is critical in stopping the spread of MRSA. He also mentioned that there are different types of staph infection; some are healthcare associated; community- associated and that the infections are increasing.

The Health District has recently issued a Public Service Announcement and has also responded to requests to attend meetings, etc. to talk about MRSA.

TB Update – It has been determined that the suspected multi-resistant tuberculosis patient is resistant to one organism only. This is considered an intermediate resistant case which means the genes are there but the condition has not shown up yet. It is not as expensive, but still very costly.

Salmonella – Another case has been reported in the last month which also has been determined to the Seftenberg type. We are trying to find any kind of linkage to the outbreak and the District is currently working with the Region 7 Epidemiologist.

Whooping Cough – There has been one case reported and has been treated.

Mr. Gonzalez asked Dr. Brzezny if it was mandatory to receive immunizations if your religion forbade it. Dr. Brzezny said it was not mandatory and he could not compel them to receive the vaccinations (an exemption can be signed for them to be able to stay in school without their immunizations), but he can compel the students who have not been vaccinated, to leave school in the event of exposure. The infected persons will not be allowed to be in school. They need to stay at home.

Mr. Gonzalez also stated that the letter that Dr. Brzezny had sent to the cities/towns was very good.

Regarding outbreaks, etc. Mr. Wanke said that the media does a very good job of getting the word out to the public. Mr. Bracht stated that it was because of the cooperation of Mrs. Grigg and Dr. Brzezny that they are able to do so.

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APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending October 31, 2007 totaling \$180,458.33 (#1-#5 totaling \$135,937.61) and (#6-#61 totaling \$44,520.72) were approved (M/S Ritter/Liebrecht – unanimous).

OTHER BUSINESS –

Public Health Partner Awards were presented to the following:

Ed & Joyce Millet from the Grant County Realtor's Association as they donated quilts

Bert Greenwalt for always being willing to help around the Moses Lake office

Carry Liles from the Moses Lake Senior Center for help promoting the flu clinic

Brad Smedley and Agnes Lutz from Columbia Ridge school for their help with the flu clinic

Steven and Bea Senn, Grayce Christian and Don & Arla Deycous for generously giving to the Helping Hearts and enabling us to provide Thanksgiving for our clients

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Works meeting room in Ephrata.

Mark Wanke, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Alexander Brzezny, M.D., Health Officer